Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Food Service Center of South Dakota (Food Bank and Food Pantry) is the recipient of a grant from Share Our Strength, which is an organization that fights hunger on local, national and international levels; and,

Whereas, Share Our Strength awards grants to effective, nonprofit organizations in order to offer nutrition-education training, and since its founding in 1984, they have distributed more than $68 million to more than 1,000 anti-hunger, anti-poverty programs worldwide; and,

Whereas, Each year Share Our Strength funds organizations that provide food assistance programs, growth and nutrition initiatives, economic self-sufficiency programs, and community development efforts to meet both short- and long-term solutions to hunger and poverty; and,

Whereas, South Dakota has an unemployment rate of 3 percent, which means over 22,600 individuals are without work and in many cases living without the most basic needs; and,

Whereas, South Dakota has over 80,500 individuals living below the national poverty rate, with 16,000 of those being children under the age of 18; and,

Whereas, In 2002, nearly 13,000 individuals in Minnehaha County received food assistance from the Food Pantry with over 39 percent or 5,089 of those being children; and,

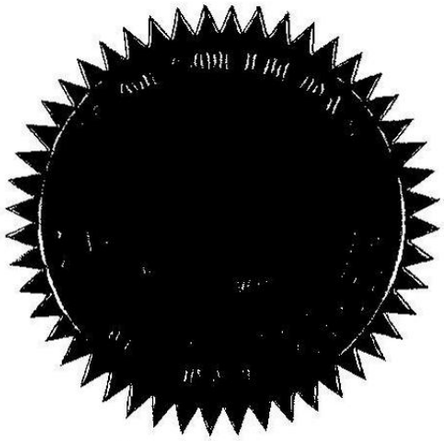
Whereas, The Food Pantry provided over 311,000 pounds of food and grocery supplies to the needy of the Sioux Falls area in 2002, and the Food Bank distributed over 5.5 million pounds of food and grocery supplies to 275 member agencies in 57 counties in South Dakota in 2002; and,

Whereas, In my official capacity as Governor, I believe the joint efforts of Share Our Strength and Food Service Center, Inc. will succeed in reducing hunger and poverty for the citizens of South Dakota:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 27, 2003, as

HUNGER RELIEF DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighteenth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State